



Areas of Specialization recognize best practices in the different Early Achievers Quality Standard areas

Early Achievers, Washington's quality rating and improvement system, offers parents an easy-to-understand rating system to help them make more informed choices. However, receiving a quality rating in Early Achievers is just the beginning for child care and early learning programs. In addition to the rated level, some providers have been awarded recognition for exceptional work in the following areas:

Interactions and Environment - To earn this specialization, child care and early learning programs need to receive a 35 out of a possible 55 points in areas such as:

- How providers interact with children to create supportive, nurturing relationships, enhance learning, and provide instruction.
- Availability and variety of learning materials and activities.
- Organizing space, materials, schedule and routine to enhance learning.
- Using materials to promote learning.

Curriculum and Staff Supports - To earn this specialization, child care and early learning programs need to receive 12 out of a possible 15 points in areas such as:

- Implementing a curriculum that aligns with the Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines and supports child development and individualized instruction.
- Providing planning time and supports for staff for professional growth and learning

Staff Professionalism - To earn this specialization, child care and early learning programs need to receive 7 out of a possible 10 points. This includes staff training and education that aligns with Washington State Core Competencies.

Family Engagement and Partnerships - To earn this specialization, child care and early learning programs need to receive 8 out of a possible 10 points by providing resources to families, such as parenting programs and information about community resources.

Child Outcomes - To earn this specialization, child care and early learning programs need to receive 8 out of a possible 10 points in areas such as:

- Screening children to spot developmental concerns.
- Providing ongoing assessment to learn about each child's strengths and needs.
- Sharing information about children's growth and progress with families to promote school readiness.
- Using information about each child's strengths and needs to plan activities and curriculum.

What this means is that the staff and child care and early learning program went above and beyond what was expected, earning distinction in these important areas of specialization.